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DIDDY'S UNINVITED GUEST {page 10}

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BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Flyers take commanding 3-0 series lead in game not for the weak of heart Seven ejections, 158 penalty minutes in epic match {page 23}

SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY

▶ Flyers winger Scott Hartnell was ejected after a fight in the closing minutes of the third period. He paid homage to the home crowd on the way out.

News

SEPTA ending gender tags begins new era

Abolishing stickers will coincide with beginning of new fare technology LGBT group still sees victory {page 02}

A twisted 'Cabin in the Woods'

Director (sort of) explains why this is no ordinary horror {pages 14-15}

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Fares changing in 2013

SEPTA spokesman says abolishing much-debated 'gender stickers' one of first welcomed side effects of new fare technology upgrade First signs of fare technology overhaul will begin appearing in '13

After a four-year campaign by LGBT activists, SEPTA has agreed to remove gender stickers from its weekly and monthly transit passes, though its motivation remains a topic of debate.

"Because of our collective efforts, SEPTA has agreed to overturn this discriminatory policy," Max Ray of advocacy group Riders Against Gender Exclusion said in a release.

SEPTA general manager Joe Casey agreed in a recent meeting with RAGE to submit a proposal asking for the stickers to be eliminated as soon as possible — in the second half of 2013, according to a letter he wrote to Ray. He said their removal would come ahead of the agency's planned new payment technology system, which was finally begun last year and was slated to take about two years to install.

But yesterday, SEPTA spokesman Richard Maloney said that the eradication of the stickers is, in fact, a long-planned part of the new chip-based fare system, all of which will begin to be installed in early 2013, not 2014. The system will use a reloadable card rather than a pass offering unlimited rides in a given time period, rendering the need to protect against sharing or fraud moot.

"As the new system is implemented piece by piece, we're simply replacing one payment system with another. It's not a matter of removing the stickers," he said. "I know the RAGE people put out a press release this week, but this is something that's been in the works."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ The unpopular "F" and "M" stickers will be among the first casualties of SEPTA's new fare system.

Passes have been marked with "M" or "F" stickers since the early 1980s, but the rule has had unintended side effects on riders who do not present themselves as distinctly male or female. They have been harassed, subject to embarrassing lines of public questioning by transit workers, "outed" to other riders and had their passes confiscated, according to RAGE.

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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Councilwoman pushed change last month

The cause gained a high-profile advocate in Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, who pledged to work with the Liberty City LGBT Democratic Club on the issue in 2011 and passed a resolution in City Council late last month urging SEPTA to remove the stickers.

"At the end of the process and debate, we want Philadelphians of all cultures, walks of life and backgrounds to get through each day without feeling discriminated against — without someone dimming their shine," Reynolds Brown said when the legislation was introduced. "We hope this resolution will move the needle further toward our goal." METRO/AW

Quoted

"The new passes ... will be like an E-ZPass. The value is added ... making ... differentiation between male and female or anyone else moot."
RICHARD MALONEY, SEPTA SPOKESMAN

"We hope that this victory can be a symbol for other trans people that we don't have to wait for other people to change systems for us."
NICO AMADOR, RAGE FOUNDING MEMBER

Quoted

"I like to tell myself I've actually spent a lot of that time beyond the bars and ... in other parts of the world because I did so mentally. But you know, mental can only take you so far."
MUMIA ABU-JAMAL, IN HIS FIRST INTERVIEW SINCE HE WAS TAKEN OFF DEATH ROW, SPEAKING TO RUSSIAN TV

In the news

Burned, dumped
Police found a woman who had been set on fire on an off ramp of Route 63 near the Roosevelt Boulevard yesterday.

The woman, 33, was found shortly before 11:15 a.m. with her upper body burned by a known assailant, whose identity police had not yet released as of yesterday evening. Authorities classified the incident as domestic. METRO/AW

Former British PM Blair to be honored in Philly

CENTER CITY. The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia will honor former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who served from 1997 to 2007, with its highest honor, the International Statesman award tomorrow night.

After leaving office, Blair has served as the unpaid Middle East envoy of the "quartet": the United States, European Union, Russia, and United Nations.

In recent months, he has been in the news about the Syrian crisis and whether Syrian President Assad and his British citizen wife should seek asylum in London.

Mari Steed, of the World Affairs Council, said Blair would likely discuss his role in the Middle East. METRO

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

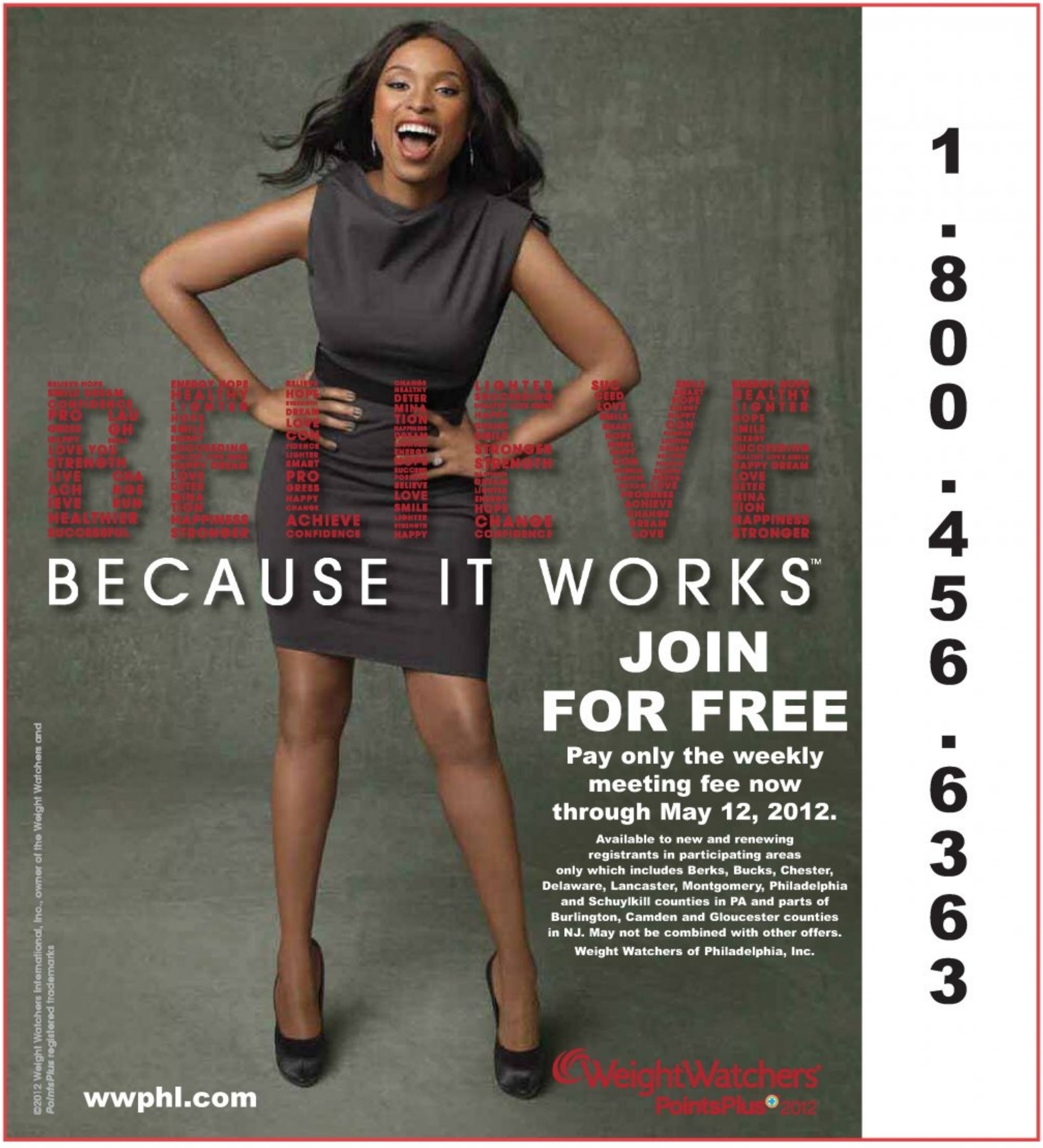
▶ Blair

City parishes face mergers later this year

PHILADELPHIA. The archdiocese released a list of 12 parishes that will be merged by July, based on the parishes' fiscal and physical stability, mass attendance and participation in sacraments.

267 Total parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, which will all be examined for their viability.

Saint Francis of Assisi and Immaculate Conception parishes will merge with Saint Vincent de Paul Parish. Saint Lucy will merge with Holy Family Parish and Saint Josaphat and Saint Mary of the Assumption parishes will consolidate with Saint John the Baptist. METRO/AW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Homeless feeding ban opposition will get say

A host of advocates, activists and churches gave moving speeches at City Council on Thursday supporting Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell's call for Mayor Michael Nutter to nix his controversial planned ban on feeding the homeless in public.

One problem: Blackwell announced at the session's start that she was not introducing the resolution, causing Council President Darrell Clarke to stem the tide of speakers about halfway through.

"We decided to hold it such that if we wanted to amend it, we could work out a compromise," Blackwell said, implying future opportunities to work with the Nutter administration. "The goal is to keep the discussion open. All of it is on the table to be changed. Obviously, the Council support is there if I wanted to amend the resolution if reality changes."

Reality indeed changed Friday when the mayor announced the formation of the Task Force on the Outdoor Serving of Food chaired by the commissioner of the city's Department of Behavioral Health, which prominently features Blackwell as a member, along with representatives of city social services and some of the other advocacy groups that spoke against the ban Thursday. The group will address many of the questions raised at Council.

"This task force will create a dialogue to marshal our good will and resources, so that we can help vulnerable, hungry people of Philadelphia in more effective ways," Nutter said.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Blackwell

"In terms of the resolution, Council will agree to it, but that doesn't take it where we want to go because resolutions are nonbinding."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
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Questions remain

The critics at Council raised several fundamental questions: Charity is a crucial aspect of many forms of worship. How can the policy be enforced without restricting religious freedom? How can the policy be enforced without compounding crises in public health, crime and tourism by compelling the hungry to eat from the trash and commit robberies and thefts to buy food?

Crime. Fundraiser theft

▶ This overweight thief stole from a benefit for families of two fallen firefighters a night before one of the firefighters was buried.

PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thief steals from victims' families

Police are still looking for a man who was caught on camera Friday night stealing donations from a benefit for two Philadelphia firefighters killed last week in a Kensington warehouse blaze. The crime happened at Smokeaters Pub on Frankford Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia. He is described as a 5-foot-10-inch to 6-foot white male between 280 and 300 pounds with short dark hair. METRO

Two died in North Philly fire yesterday morning

NORTH PHILADELPHIA. A row house fire killed an elderly woman and a child early yesterday morning, police said.

The blaze on the 1200 block of West Firth Street broke out around 12:30 a.m. and took about an hour to wrestle under control. Authorities then found the bodies of a woman, 79, and a 4-year-old, reportedly the woman's great granddaughter, in a second-floor bedroom.

Two adults were able to escape, along with a child who is in stable condition after being treated for smoke inhalation.

The cause of the fire, which is believed to be accidental, is still under investigation. METRO

Jackie returns to Philly

Legendary Dodger, baseball's barrier breaker, appeared in statue form at Phillies game ◗ New Jersey artist carved life-sized sculpture from wood

Still a business

Despite the fun of traveling around to different ballparks, ideally, Birrer would like to sell his artwork, which is valued between $20,000 and $25,000. He has sold four wooden statues in his lifetime, including a Joe DiMaggio to the Yankees.

- "It's crazy to think this stuff was a pile of lumber in my shop," he said.
- Birrer has also sold two Babe Ruth statues and has a Mickey Mantle in inventory. He plans to start working on a Mordecai Brown in the near future. The best part for him is the reaction from the fans.
- "Nothing like it," he said. "I can't put it into words."

Ashburn Alley had a special guest yesterday afternoon. No. 42.

In honor of the 65th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier, a life-sized wood statue was on display in the centerfield concourse at Citizens Bank Park. The monument was sculpted by (gulp) a former Mets fan.

"Used to be," sculptor Brian Birrer, 45, said. "I don't root for any team now. My kids are wearing Phillies hats."

The artist from northern New Jersey spent almost 800 hours carving Jackie Robinson, completing him in 2009. The statue weighs 250 pounds, stands at 5 feet 11 inches and is composed of 80 to 100 pieces of wood. It comes apart at the waist, so it can easily be transported in an SUV. Jackie

Quoted

"I wanted him to look comfortable and relaxed, like a photographer just stopped him and asked for a photo."
BIRRER

is wearing his 1953 home Dodgers uniform. This is the second year in a row he's displayed it at the Bank.

"The Phillies have been great," Birrer said. "My idea is that if you can get into the ballpark and the fans like it, maybe put it in plexiglass, maybe someone makes an offer."

The idea for Jackie Robinson began when an acquaintance informed Birrer that movie producer Spike Lee might be interested in buying such an item. However, that deal fell apart and Birrer took his show on the road.

"He [Lee] wanted Jackie to be sliding," Birrer said. "But I felt like sliding is almost a stereotype. I wanted him to look comfortable and relaxed, like a photographer just stopped him and asked for a photo."

Birrer took up woodcarving during a break from college and parlayed it into a part-time hobby. He works full-time as a computer programmer.

"It's a nice check when you can get it, but when you consider all the time and overhead, it's tough to make it a career," Birrer said.

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us

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▶ Robinson's statue was in town for yesterday's game.

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‘Spring offensive’ by Taliban rattles Kabul

Heavy explosions, rockets and gunfire rattled Kabul yesterday as Afghanistan's Taliban launched a “spring offensive” with multiple attacks targeting Western embassies, the NATO force's headquarters and the parliament building.

The assault, one of the most serious on the capital since U.S.-backed Afghan forces removed the Taliban from power in 2001, highlighted the ability of militants to strike the heavily guarded diplomatic zone even after more than 10 years of war.

“These attacks are the beginning of the spring offensive and we had planned them for months.”
TALIBAN SPOKESMAN ZABIHULLAH MUJAHID

It was also another election-year setback in Afghanistan for U.S. President Barack Obama, who wants to present the long campaign against the Taliban as a success before the departure of most foreign combat troops by the end of 2014.

“These attacks are the beginning of the spring offensive and we had planned them for months,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters.

He said the onslaught was revenge for a series of incidents involving American troops in Afghanistan — including the burning of Korans at a NATO base and the massacre of 17 civilians by a U.S. soldier. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ NATO soldiers take position at the site of a gunbattle after Taliban militants launched a series of coordinated attacks across Kabul, Afghanistan.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ View of the ocean liner ‘Titanic’ on her first and last voyage, after leaving Queenstown (now Cobh), Ireland.

Atlantic tribute to dead of the Titanic

At the shrill sound of a ship's whistle in the North Atlantic, relatives of some of the more than 1,500 people who died when the Titanic sank after hitting an iceberg remembered their ancestors in a poignant ceremony a century later.

On a still, starry night and with little glare from the moon, the memorial cruise ship MS Balmoral floated above the wreckage of the famous ‘unsinkable’ luxury liner precisely 100 years to the day it foundered.

“At 2:20 a.m. all was quiet, as it would have been 100 years ago when it went deathly quiet, when the screaming stopped,” British Titanic historian Philip Littlejohn told Reuters yesterday. Littlejohn's grandfather, Alexander Littlejohn, was a 1st class steward in charge of lifeboat 13 when the ship began to go down.

About 700 people were rescued that night, including his grandfather, but there were too few lifeboats to save the rest. **REUTERS**

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After a week in which Republicans turned Democrats' rhetorical "War on Women" around on them by shifting the debate from the right-wing's ubiquitous anti-women policies into a battle over lefties' alleged disdain for working mothers, we thought maybe this election battle had played itself out.

We weren't the only ones. Slate's Dave Weigel called it for the talking point: "The 'War on Women' is over," he wrote. (Online, at least, women appeared thankful for that.) The Washington Post was less jury, more judge: "Dear media: Stop playing along with fake controversies," they instructed.

It's almost as if they'd never been through a presidential campaign before!

Alas, neither side of this fracas was inclined to obey the orders. Yes, much like our other legacy entanglements — think: War on Terror, War on Drugs, War in Afghanistan — this so-called war seems intent on playing itself out indefinitely.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner went on ABC yesterday to attack Mitt Romney's argument that the president's economic policies have unfairly affected women. "It's a ridiculous argument," he said. "It's been largely debunked."

See, Romney keeps saying that "92.3 percent of the job losses during the Obama years have been women." This is sort of true, but also not at all: While many have lost their jobs in the recession, Obama's stimulus saved many more. And while Republicans oppose any and all stimulus, more government spending could have saved still more. (And if it's true that the government reaction to the 2008 mortgage crisis spawned "The Obama Great Failed Recovery," as conservative blog Legal Insurrection and many others allege, what was the GOP counteroption? Tax cuts for the rich? Deregulation? Would those help women?)

Even Fox News Sunday saw a discrepancy in the Romney claim. Host Chris Wallace called the figure a "little bit of an accounting trick," saying "all the independent fact-finders have said it's misleading." Romney adviser Ed Gillespie shot back: Those were "liberal economists."

The big get in the mommy skirmishes came this weekend from NBC's Chris Hayes, who found video of Romney arguing in January that poor stay-at-home moms ought to get a job so that they can "have the dignity of work." This paints a telling contrast from the campaign's manufactured outrage after unaffiliated Democrat operative Hilary Rosen said Ann Romney had not "worked a day in her life." The Romney camp mobilized, using the incident to paint Dems as anti-mom; Romney adviser Eric Fehrnstrom, for instance, called it the "'kill Ann' strategy."

So which is it, Romneys? Is "stay-at-home mom" a respectful signifier? Or does it imply a lack of dignity?

Our moms are waiting.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

He said, we said

"They were not easy years. ... We were happy, studying hard. Neither one of us had a job, because Mitt had enough of an investment from stock that we could sell off a little at a time."

ANNE ROMNEY IN 1994, EXPLAINING HOW SHE AND MITT STRUGGLED IN THEIR COLLEGE YEARS, ESCHEWING JOBS AND EKING OUT AN EXISTENCE IN AN "AWFUL," "TINY ... BASEMENT APARTMENT WITH A CEMENT FLOOR," GETTING BY ON MONEY FROM MR. ROMNEY'S CORPORATE STOCK OPTIONS

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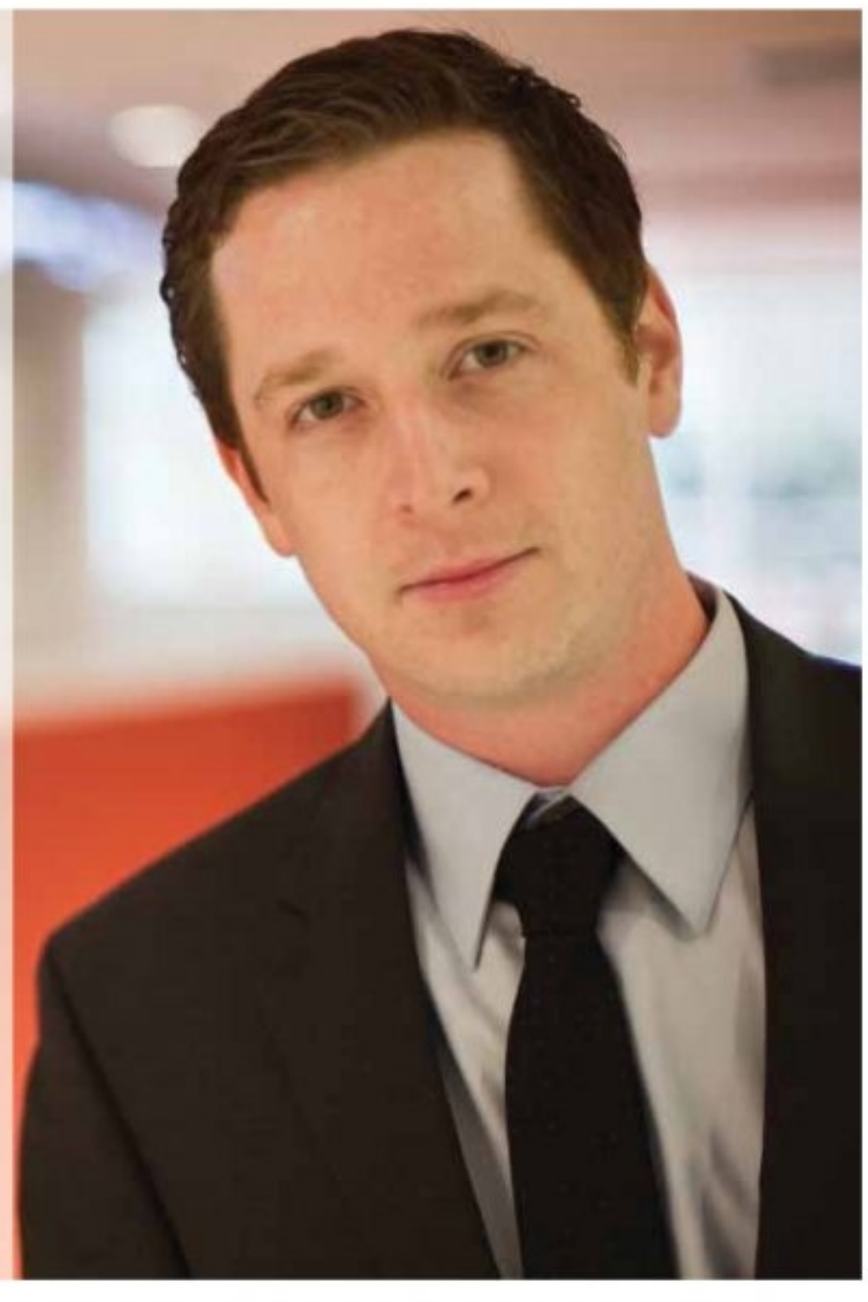

News in brief

Chavez pulls out of summit

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez pulled out of the Summit of the Americas yesterday for more cancer treatment, giving up a chance to confront President Barack Obama.

GETTY IMAGES

This might be a signal that his health is deteriorating.
BLOOMBERG

Latin America unites for Cuba

President Barack Obama faces a rare display of unity among both leftist and conservative-run nations in Latin America in allowing communist-run Cuba at the next summit.

Argentina's foreign minister said the final summit declaration was stalled over the issue of Cuba, with 32 nations supporting its inclusion in the next Summit of the Americas, but the United States vetoing that.
REUTERS

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Wooing of Americas marred by scandal

A prostitution scandal involving U.S. security personnel in Cartagena, Colombia, and an unprecedented regional push to end the isolation of Cuba threatened on Saturday to eclipse President Barack Obama's charm offensive to Latin America.

In a major embarrassment for Washington at the Summit of the Americas attended by more than 30 heads of state, 11 U.S. Secret Service agents were sent home and five military servicemen grounded over "misconduct" allegations in a hotel.

Prostitutes were taken to the hotel, according to a Colombian police source.

"I had a breakfast meeting to discuss trade and drugs, but the only thing the other delegates wanted to talk about was the story of the agents and the hookers."
A LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT

The widening controversy was overshadowing a host of weightier topics at the two-day summit that began on Saturday.

Locals were upset about the bad publicity for their city, and the scandal was raising eyebrows around the region.

"Obama's guards expelled in Colombia over prostitution — shame the gringos think that Latin America is a brothel and they act like it too," commented left-leaning Venezuelan political commentator Nicmer Evans via Twitter.
REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

Jong-un delivers first public address

PYONGYANG. North Korea's new leader delivered his first major public speech yesterday as the impoverished state celebrated the centenary of its founder's birth, calling for a push to "final victory" despite a failed rocket launch two days earlier.

A jowly Kim Jong-un, clad in black and the third of his line to rule North Korea, read monotonously from a script in Pyongyang's central square after goose-stepping soldiers and sailors showcased the North's military power in a parade in spring sunshine.

"Let us move forward to final victory," the twentysomething leader urged tens of thousands of military and civilians as they applauded his speech, which ran more than 20 minutes and was the first time a North Korean leader delivered a major public set-piece address.
REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

YOU DID ATLANTIC CITY 10 YEARS AGO...

myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Diddy's uninvited houseguest

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

A 30-year-old man has been arrested for trespassing at **Sean "Diddy" Combs**' East Hampton mansion, where he reportedly ate the hip-hop mogul's food, drank his liquor, tried on some of his clothes and then slept in his bed, according to TMZ.com. **Quamine Taylor**, who reportedly has a history of mental illness, entered the vacant house through an unlocked basement door and was there for 24 hours before tripping an alarm. But when police and an alarm company representative showed up, Taylor was able to convince them he had permission to be there. It wasn't until a caretaker arrived and called the police back that Taylor was arrested. Combs' rep had no comment.

Poor Quamine. If only someone had tipped him off that Combs' mansion was NOT a Notorious B&B, he wouldn't be in this mess.

▶ Somebody's been sleeping in Diddy's bed ...

Jesus, take the wheel (not you, Bynes)

If someone isn't going to get **Amanda Bynes** some help, can somebody at least get the girl a driver? Less than two weeks after being arrested for driving under the influence after hitting up the L.A. club scene, the Nickelodeon star was back out partying — and behind the wheel, according to TMZ. The actress was spotted driving to the Chateau Marmont and nightclub Greystone Manor, where she was spotted texting behind the wheel before backing her car up onto a curb. On the bright side, a curb is a downgrade from a cop car — which is the last thing she ran her car into.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Alison Brie is having an interesting day, Chris Colfer has meddling pets, Russell Brand indulges from time to time and Joan Rivers is ready to celebrate.

@alisonbrie
So a sketchy dude on a bicycle definitely just stopped to whisper to me "You're lucky" before repeatedly yelling at me "Monica Lewinsky!!!"

@chriscolfer
Note to self: Next time you're looking for keys, wallet, or phone, begin with checking under the cat.

@rustyrockets
I would never burn money. Unless you count the ten grand I spent on cat jackets.

@Joan_Rivers
William and Kate's 1st anniversary is weeks away. The Queen is giving them the traditional gift of paper – the deed to Australia.

Brie

Pitt and Jolie are engaged

After being together for seven years, raising six children and being featured on a bazillion tabloid magazine covers, **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie** are engaged to be married, a rep for Pitt confirms in a statement.

"Yes, it's confirmed. It is a promise for the future and their kids are very happy. There's no date set at this time," the rep says. Pitt reportedly popped the question with a $250,000 ring, according to Us Weekly.

▶ Is getting engaged the beginning of the end for Jolie and Pitt?

Talking points

Scarlett Johansson on 'horrible' divorce

Though she describes her split from ex-husband **Ryan Reynolds** as "comically amicable," **Scarlett Johansson** admits she's still reeling from her divorce. "Of course it's horrible. It was devastating. It really throws you," she tells Vogue. "You think that your life is going to be one way, and then, for various reasons or whatever, it doesn't work out." Johansson also acknowledges her post-divorce relationship with **Sean Penn** for the first time, saying, "We spent time together, yeah. I never put a title on it, really, but we were seeing each other."

▶ Divorcee Johansson

Smith responds to divorce rumors

Jada Pinkett Smith isn't bothered by the tabloid reports of trouble in her marriage to **Will Smith** — or at least she isn't surprised by them. "Every year, one celebrity couple is under the microscope. This year, unluckily, it's us. I almost want to say that we should have been expecting it," she tells Gala magazine. "Will and I know the truth. We're waiting peacefully for the storm to blow over."

Tebow is still celibate (maybe)

Eligible bachelor and NFL quarterback **Tim Tebow** has been linked to a number of famous women in the press, from **Taylor Swift** to **Katy Perry**, but he's not bothered by the gossip. "It's funny, because half the rumors, I've never even met the people," he tells "Good Morning America." "I'm sure they would be lovely."

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myentertainment

Big weekend in music with Coachella and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

1: How is it possible that St. Vincent singer and guitarist Annie Clark can be be both smokin' hot and totally cool? The leather pants may have something to do with it — but if we knew the real answer, we'd all be rock stars, wouldn't we? St. Vincent played the second night at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., on Saturday.

2: Thom Yorke, on the other hand, proves you don't have to look cool to be cool. Does he not look a little like Brick from that show, "The Middle"? Radiohead headlined night two of Coachella.

3: From left, Faces and Rolling Stones guitarist Ron Wood plays; Funkadelic kingpin George Clinton sings; Flea, Anthony Keidis and Chad Smith of Red Hot Chili Peppers do their thang; and Slash from Guns N' Roses shreds. What could this group possibly be playing? Stevie Wonder's "Higher Ground," of course, at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame all-star jam, where RHCP, GnR and the Faces were all inducted this weekend. And no, Axl Rose did not show up.

4: And in the "we didn't know who you were before, but you now have our attention" category, rapper Jay Rock got vertical during his Friday Coachella set. And yes, he did land the flip.

5: Azealia Banks was the first performer announced to play Coachella. She delivered an intense daytime set with a cover of "Firestarter" by The Prodigy.

6: The Beastie Boys were also inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame this Saturday, but this ain't them. This is Travie McCoy, Black Thought from The Roots and Kid Rock, performing a tribute to the classic hip-hop trio.

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▶ "The Hunger Games" easily beat new releases "The Three Stooges" and "The Cabin in the Woods."

'Hunger Games' takes fourth box office crown

The blockbuster movie "The Hunger Games" topped three new films over the weekend to earn its fourth straight box office title.

The survival story about an oppressive society's teen death match brought in $21.5 million at U.S. and Canadian theaters from Friday through yesterday, according to studio estimates compiled by Reuters. **REUTERS**

TV watch list

'Castle'

DRAMA. It's a "Firefly" reunion when Adam Baldwin guest stars as a gruff gang-squad cop whom Castle (Nathan Fillion) chooses to shadow.
10 p.m., ABC

'Eden's World'

REALITY. Retired pageant competitor Eden Wood, the 7-year-old former star of "Toddlers & Tiaras," shares her pageant world wisdom with little girls aspiring to be just as exploited as she is.
Series premiere, 10 p.m., Logo

'Eureka'

DRAMA. The final season of this fun Syfy drama kicks off with the missing Astraeus crash landing. Allison and the crew are shocked to be back in Eureka — and more surprised to learn four years have passed since they first left. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., Syfy**

AMBER RAY

ABC/BON TOM

▶ Nathan Fillion, left, and Adam Baldwin star in "Castle."

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564 LANCASTER AVE MALVERN, PA 19355
AUCTION DATE: 5/1/2012 TIME: 9:00 AM
ROBIN LIVINGSTON 1110, TYLER OAKEY 1138, JENAY RAMSEY 1233

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S191	Dorian Miller	household items
E403	Shawn Mercer	household items
C227	Jillian Durst	household items
S130	Ronsheed Phillips	household items
C217	Delano Cooper	household items

A new twist on 'Cabin'

Quoted

"I'm sure [Joss Whedon will] be proud to be known in the annals of history as the man who thought up the collapsible bong."
DREW GODDARD

Cute teens head to the woods in the latest from Drew Goddard and Joss Whedon ◗ But the long-awaited film isn't your average 'Evil Dead'

Director Drew Goddard has been waiting a long time for the release of "The Cabin in the Woods," the giddy, mind-bending horror film he co-wrote with "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" creator Joss Whedon. Shot in March 2009, the film found itself a victim of the financial woes plaguing its studio, MGM. But after being rescued by new distributor Lionsgate and wowing crowds at the South by Southwest Film Festival and at preview screenings around the country, Goddard's film is finally coming out. Just don't tell anyone what happens in it.

So it's been about three years since you filmed this, but you hit a bit of a delay in the release.
Yeah, you know, the studio we made the movie with went bankrupt. They got caught in the financial crisis a little worse than other studios. They had to declare bankruptcy, and it sort of slowed everything down. But it wasn't just us — "The Hobbit" got delayed and James Bond got delayed, and when you see heavyweights like those dropping beside you, you realize, "This is a much bigger problem than any one film."

I mentioned the film to a friend, who worried that the storyline sounds too cliched. I didn't know what to tell her. How do you market a movie so filled with twists?
Yeah, it's tricky because you want to tell the audience this is different, and that this is not your average, everyday horror film, but you also want to protect it. The truth about this movie is [that] the less you know about it, the better.

There is a great deal of humor in the film, especially compared to some of the torture-oriented horror films that have become popular in recent years.
There's certainly a lot of subgenres within the horror genre, and we wanted to be part of the fun horror movies rather than the traumatic horror movies. [Laughs] And there's definitely been a trend in horror movies recently — not always, because there's been some great horror movies that were made in the last 10 years, but you can feel when a director doesn't care about his characters, and I certainly see that in a lot of movies where it just feels like they're setting kids up to watch them

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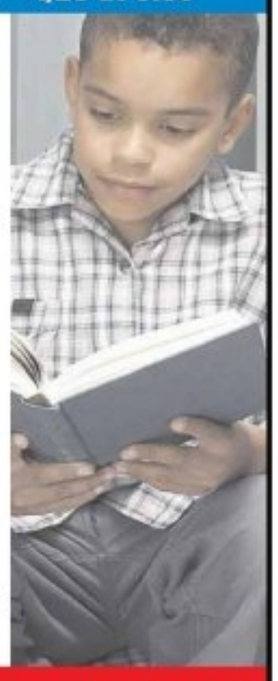
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▶ Joss Whedon, left, and director Drew Goddard consult on the set of "The Cabin in the Woods."

get slaughtered over and over, and that's it. And I think that we were definitely railing against that with this movie. We wanted to care about what's going on and have something to say with this movie.

Your stoner character, Marty, uses a bong that collapses to look like a travel coffee mug. Who thought that up — or does such a thing exist?

That was made up, and that comes from the great mind of Joss Whedon. I'm sure he'll be proud to be known in the annals of history as the man who thought up the collapsible bong.

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mywellbeing

More on cleansing your mind

Two weeks ago, I wrote about how to clear out some of the clutter in your mind. You know that good feeling you get when you recycle old clothes? If you dig that kind of release, you'll love how it feels to let go of old, negative thoughts that you've held onto for years. Follow my spring mind cleanse guide and enjoy the extra mental space.

Step one: The one-year rule
The age-old closet rule — if you haven't worn it in over a year, throw it out — applies to the mind, too. If you've been obsessing over something out of your control for over a year, it's time to let it go. Get honest with yourself about how you've been holding onto an outcome. Begin the releasing process by simply saying once a day, "I am ready to let this go." This simple affirmation will let the mind cleanse begin.

Zen in the city

GABRIELLE BERNSTEIN
WWW.GABBYB.TV

Step two: Recycle the junk
Once you identify the negative beliefs that you've been holding onto, you can rewrite the script. Reaffirm a new belief that is more positive and energizing. For instance, recycle "I can't lose weight" with the affirmation, "this spring I'm ready to let go of the extra pounds."

Step three: Celebrate your mental cleanse
A huge part of the mind cleanse practice is to acknowledge your newfound clarity. Cleansing doesn't happen overnight. You must celebrate the subtle shifts and stick around for the miracles.

*— **Gabrielle Bernstein** is the author of "Spirit Junkie."*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

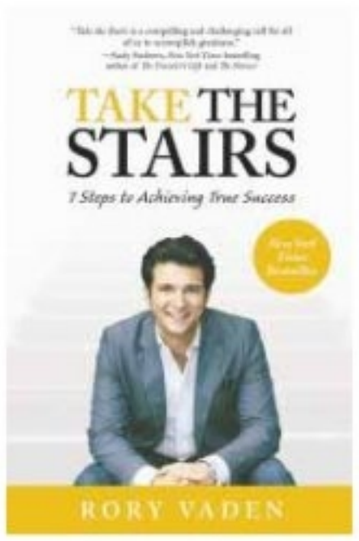
Monday morning motivation lesson

How to quit making excuses so you can take charge of your life Don't let the little things get in the way

Some people seem to have been born with a self-discipline gene that brings success and happiness, while others don't appear as lucky. But that kind of willpower isn't something we come into the world with, says Rory Vaden, a self-discipline strategist and co-founder of international training company Southwestern Consulting.

"People make excuses like, 'I don't have an iron will' or 'It's not in my DNA,' says Vaden, the author of "Take the Stairs: 7 Steps to Achieving True Success."

Self-discipline isn't the problem. "Procrastination is the problem. Self-discipline is the remedy," he says. "It's really not that difficult — but there are no shortcuts."



LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

Shortcut thinking is what gets people into trouble in the first place, which was the thinking behind Vaden's book title.

"Do we take the stairs, or the elevator? Easy, short-term choices lead to difficult long-term solutions," he says. "Problems that are procrastinated only amplify. A good example is a health problem. If you ignore it, it compounds until you're so out of shape it seems hopeless. It's the same with relationships: Any conflict that's ignored builds until everything explodes."

His three types of procrastination

- **Classic:** constantly delaying what we should be doing
- **Creative avoidance:** filling the day with menial work and avoiding the important things
- **Priority dilution:** allowing distractions and interruptions to take priority over important tasks

Get it done

To strengthen your self-discipline muscle, Vaden suggests arming yourself with the following:

- **Relentless determination:** "Every single day, put two things on your to-do list and do them. Until you accomplish those two things, everything is a distraction."
- **Inspiration:** "People become disengaged because they are uninspired. It's not a lack of work ethic; it's a lack of vision. If you have a vision of what you want, it's context for making a short-term sacrifice."

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Inside JOB

The revamped Occupational Outlook Handbook website provides detailed info on hundreds of careers

Which fields look promising

From the data

Professions projecting the most new jobs, 2010-2020:

- Registered nurses: 712,000
- Retail salespersons: 707,000
- Home health aides: 706,000
- Personal care aides: 607,000
- Office clerks, general: 490,000

The best source of information for people researching careers is now even better, with a more informative and easier-to-use website.

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, online at www.bls.gov/ooh, provides detailed information on hundreds of careers. That includes a description of each job and its work environment.

Jennifer Flynn, the assistant director of career services at Philadelphia University, relies on the handbook to help students identify potential career paths. She's enthusiastic about the updates. "It looks great," she explains. "It's easier for explorers to pop in and look around, and the search function is much better."

You can now search by salaries, educational requirements, on-the-job training, projected number of new jobs and projected rate of growth — either singly or in combination. So, for instance, if you search for jobs you can get with an associate's degree that pay $25,000 to $34,999, your results will turn up five jobs, two of them with solid growth rates (preschool teachers and veterinary technicians).

One of the new features Flynn especially likes is the "similar occupations" tab for each entry. For instance, the veterinary technician's description gives six other jobs working either with animals or in labs. "This will help people explore their options," she says, whether it's a college student picking a major or an adult looking to change careers.

▶ Looking for a new industry? Do some research first at www.bls.gov/ooh.

BRAND X PICTURES

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
judy.weightman@metro.us

Job security

According to the handbook, these fields are projecting the fastest rates of growth between 2010-2020:

- Personal care aides: 70 percent
- Home health aides: 69 percent
- Biomedical engineers: 62 percent
- Helpers, brick, stone, tile: 60 percent
- Helpers, carpenters: 56 percent
- Veterinary technicians: 52 percent
- Rebar workers: 49 percent
- Physical therapist assistants: 46 percent
- Helpers, plumbers and pipe-fitters: 45 percent

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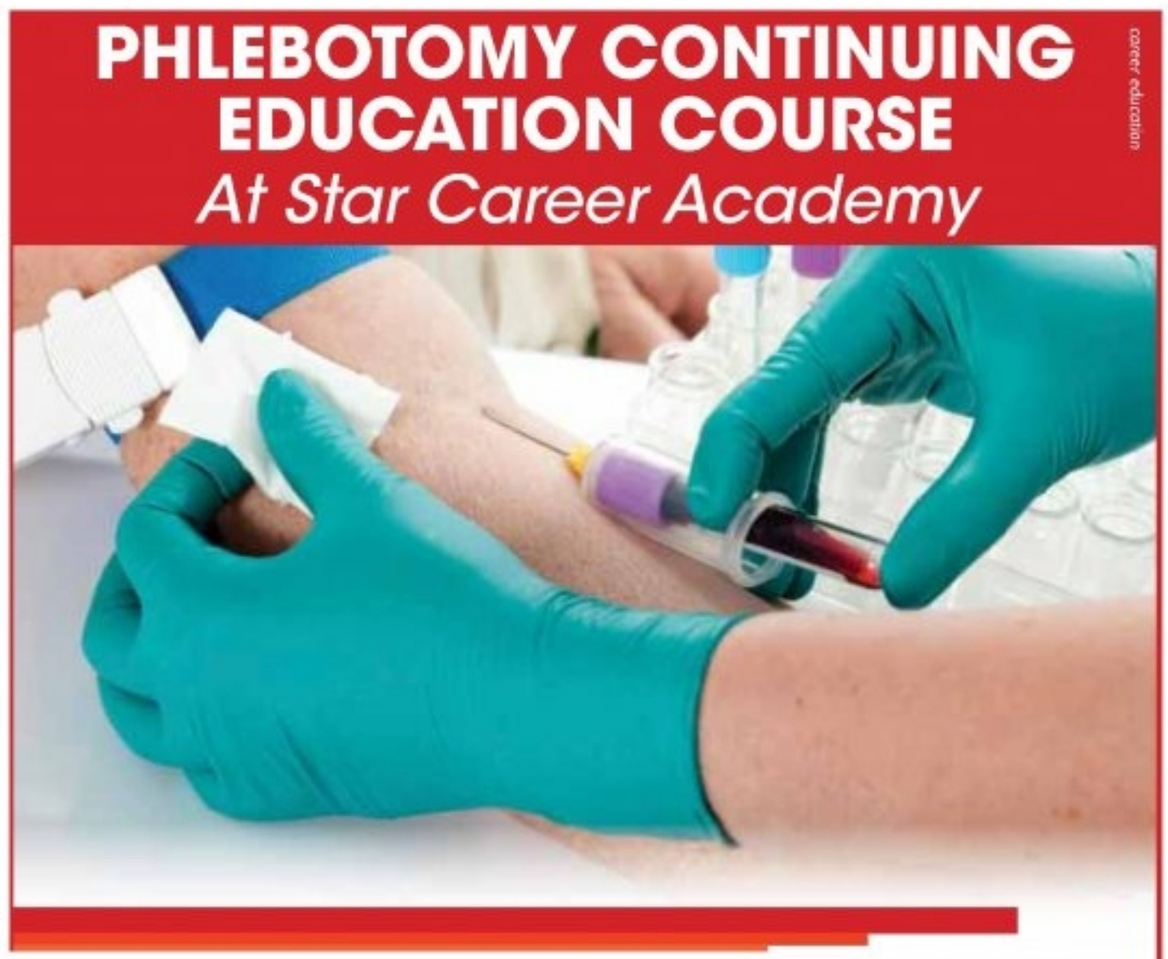
Photo op: Break in to the wedding industry

▶ Cassandra Eldridge's shoots range from $3,000-$5,800.

PHOTOS: CASSANDRA ELDRIDGE



Samuel Bendall works 9 to 5 as an assistant account manager for an L.A.-based PR firm. But over the last five years, he has created a rewarding — and even lucrative — part-time career as a wedding photographer.

Bendall, a recent California State-Northridge grad, books about one wedding per month and grosses between $1,500 and $6,000 for each one (a fairly industry-standard rate). The work is certainly more rewarding than his former part-time jobs in the restaurant business, but building a viable wedding photography business is far more challenging than most people realize.

"I don't do it full-time because of how much work is involved in a wedding. It's hard to convey to people," he explains. "It's more logistics than anything: meeting with the family, the wedding planner. Plus, there's a lot on the back-end of processing and packaging good images. You spend about 10 percent of your time actually at the wedding."

And, unlike other part-time jobs, wedding photography requires both passion and talent. Bendall has been a photographer since high school and avidly pursues his own artistic photo projects.

But, perhaps most importantly, the job demands an intrinsic feel for public relations.

"You can't just be a good photographer, you have to be an incredible interpersonal communicator: Explain concisely, to difficult people, what exactly you're doing," says Bendall. "It's like Oscar Wilde said: 'If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh, otherwise they'll kill you.'"

BRUCE WALSH
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Blog inspiration

Married couple Justin and Mary Marantz own one of the premier wedding photography businesses in the country, based in New Haven, Conn. Their blog, "Pancake Session," is full of wisdom, resources and inspiration for budding wedding photographers: www.justinmarantz.com.

Expert Q&A

Cassandra Eldridge is a wedding photographer in Chicago. She shoots roughly 30 ceremonies per year.

How do you know if you have the talent for the job?
A lot of people think that if they own a camera, they're a photographer. But there's obviously composition, thinking outside the box and timing — developing really good gut instincts. If you're interested, [then] practice, practice, practice and see where you wind up. There are a lot of wedding photographers out there who are extremely talented. It's important not to compare.

Do you hire assistants?
Yes, one per shoot. I pay a flat rate of $200 and encourage them to build their own portfolio. That's how most people break in.

How do you find your clients?
Word of mouth has been amazing. I'm a heavy blogger, and I'm very active on social networking.

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For a faster job search, don't do this

Think differently if you want to wrap it up quickly
Career expert Louise Kursmark on her list of don'ts

Though many have mastered the art of quick consumerism via same-day shipping and doorstep delivery, we still struggle with expedited job shopping. In her new book, "Same-Day Résumé," career expert Louise Kursmark offers valuable advice on minimizing time in the workless waiting room. "The key to speeding up the process is in non-traditional job search techniques," says the author.

According to Kursmark, the best catalyst strategies involve do-nots rather than dos:

Do not be a cyber scavenger
"Not everything's on the Web. In fact, most employers would rather not post a job online, because they'll have to look over hundreds and hundreds of résumés and potential interviewees. They would rather ask around — staff, family, friends, business colleagues."

Do not make an appearance
"You want to maximize your resources, one of which is time. In-person soliciting is very time-consuming and usually doesn't produce high payoffs unless your visit is specific and purposeful."

Do not count on your current circle
"Expand your network and look into professional associations. You can make great contacts through these associations to establish who you are in the field and find others in your profession. If they know of jobs, they're going to steer you in the direction of companies that are hiring."

Do not slack off
"If you're not currently working, your search should be a full-time job. Even if you're in the interviewing process, you need to continue networking efforts, résumé polishing and industry research."

TIFFANY KANG
letters@metro.us

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Keep it positive!

Despite the job market, Kursmark emphasizes the importance of staying optimistic about your prospects.

"Though the unemployment rate is high and college grads aren't finding opportunities, realize that 91 percent of people are still working. There are jobs for dedicated, smart people — you only need one among thousands of opportunities. Feel good about what you have to offer."

"You want to maximize your resources, one of which is time. In-person soliciting is very time-consuming and usually doesn't produce high payoffs unless your visit is specific and purposeful." KURSMARK

GOODSHOOT

▶ Work it, girl: Looking for a new gig should keep you full-time busy.

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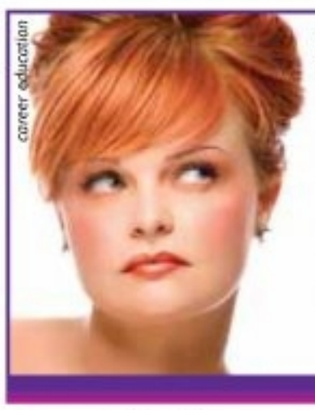

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Letters

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Tax cuts on rich don't help the poor

Most people believe that if President Obama taxes the rich for more money, it will go to the poor. This couldn't be further from the truth. If hold-up men take your money, the hold-up men use it. If it is given to a charity, it is used by the charity. If the government takes it, the politicians will use it for their pork barrels. Raising taxes on the rich does not help the poor.

ALAN JACOBS, VIA E-MAIL

The war on moms keeps on going

RE: "UMBRAGE WARS BEGIN IN EARNEST": You make it sound like Mrs. Romney has just floated through life on a gilded pillow. You might be forgetting the fact that she is diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, and regardless of whether she suffers publicly from any outwardly visible symptoms, imagine yourself going through life with the fear of possible physical, psychological or neurological debilitation. I think raising five kids while keeping herself in good health is a pretty phenomenal accomplishment.

DEBORAH FENKER, VIA E-MAIL

Mitt Romney has won a big victory in the inside-the-Beltway game. He has no chance of passing himself off as anything but a scion of vast wealth. But apparently he's free to lie about his wife and say that she has personal experience of kitchen-table economic issues. The punditry has decided that calling him on it is an attack on his wife, and therefore not only is the entire GOP "War on Women" disqualified from consideration but Romney himself is now Joe Sixpack-by-proxy. Let's hope the voters are smarter than the insiders.

DAN WYLIE-SEARS, VIA E-MAIL

President Obama took time away from the 99 percent to defend the .000001 percent of women who can afford to choose to stay home to do whatever they do when they have five children and a husband who makes a lot of money with other people's money killing other people's jobs.

SUZY SANDOR, VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Brayden Simms is again doing damage control for his heroes, the Obamas and the Democratic party. Ms. Rosen said that Ms. Romney actually never worked a day in her life as a stay-at-home mom. This statement started a firestorm, which prompted Simms to state that Hilary Rosen, a "Democratic Strategist," is not affiliated with Obama. I don't know why, she only visited the Obama White House 35 times. I guess Mr. Simms has taken writing lessons from "Calvin & Hobbes": As Calvin put it, "the purpose of writing is to inflate weak ideas, obscure poor reasoning and inhibit clarity."

IGOR MANNIKUS, VIA E-MAIL

I think Ann Romney is right. Women's decisions should be respected, in all areas. She, and all women, must have the right to make their own life choices. It's a shame her party and her husband don't think so.

PAUL SIMONS, PHILADELPHIA

Ann Romney worked hard raising her five children. Hillary Rosen was incorrect saying she hadn't worked a day in her life. As a result, it seems Ann Romney's maids and butlers didn't work a day in their lives.

ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You may enter the day with high hopes — but unless something good happens to help you keep that positive attitude, the slightest upset will send you into a funk.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Upon occasion, you're apt to ignore those who have done the most for you while rewarding the undeserving in hopes of getting their attention. This approach will do nothing for you.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** In order to get others to do your bidding, you might try to use some flattery. However, if the recipient doesn't deserve your words of praise, you'll get nowhere. Sincerity will have the greatest impact.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you run into someone who can help you in your career, the use of levity could prove counterproductive. Keep your conversation on a serious plane.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You'll be of no help if you tell an advice-seeker only what she or he wants to hear. You'll do more for the other party if you are frank and forthright.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Even if the truth is painful, base your judgment calls on facts. Decisions based on easy outs might make you feel good — but if they do nothing for you, they're worthless.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't think it won't anger your friends if you give them cause to think you're nice only to those who can help you get what you want. Treat everyone with the same courtesy.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Even if members of the opposite sex usually find you quite appealing, don't mistake the signals and think someone is making a pass at you. It could prove to be embarrassing.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Even if you don't have any current plans to use them, your pragmatic skills will be more pronounced than your artistic ones. Put them to work for you if you can.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** It's important to follow through on any promises you made to another, even if it now causes you a bit of inconvenience. Doing so will greatly enhance your reputation.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you are penny-wise and pound foolish, don't be surprised if you discover a lot of holes in your books when it comes time to take stock.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Unless you are materially motivated, it isn't likely that you'll use the full force of your talents. However, you'll shift into full gear when there is something in it for you.

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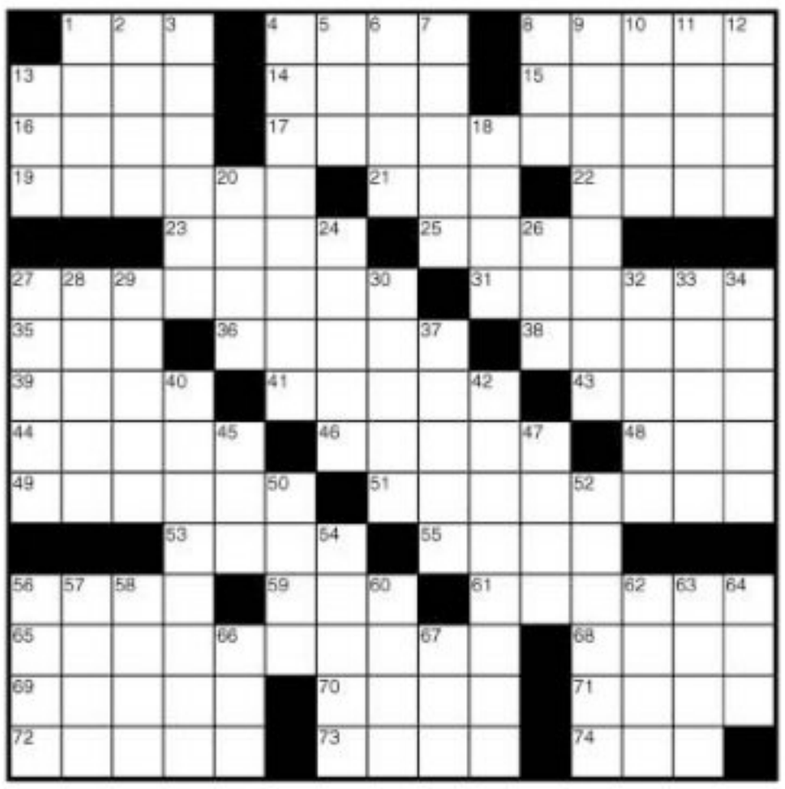
Across
1 Big burger
4 Perched on
8 Cross one's heart
13 Lobby furnishing
14 Soft, ripe cheese
15 Tortilla dip
16 Knitter's supply
17 Diver's find, maybe (2 wds.)
19 Winter vehicle (hyph.)
21 Toga-party order
22 Faint trace
23 Unable to play
25 Epic
27 Inherently (2 wds.)
31 Dillydally
35 Mauna __
36 Wickerwork twig
38 Joyous outburst
39 Total failures
41 Greeks' Greece
43 Holy cow!
44 Bellyache
46 Quay
48 Opal or moonstone
49 Unruffled
51 Not updateable (hyph.)
53 Wordy Webster
55 Hunk of marble
56 Not up yet
59 Speeder's nemesis
61 Protozoans (var.)
65 Bavarian shorts
68 Tooth anchor
69 More than lethargic
70 Sentry's bark
71 Sarah __ Jewett
72 Not at all relaxed
73 S&L conveniences
74 Dallas-to-Chicago dir.



Down
1 Eerie sound
2 Big hairdo
3 Jai alai court
4 Hard to understand
5 Capote nickname
6 Moo companion
7 Lap dogs
8 Nine-digit no.
9 Erode (2 wds.)
10 Grades 1-12
11 Speller's phrase (2 wds.)
12 Wholly absorbed
13 UNIX or DOS
18 Old-time oath
20 Freeway clogger
24 Warble
26 Generation __
27 High rises, briefly
28 __ telling me!
29 Rock bottom
30 Conger catcher
32 Stoop to
33 Boutonniere's place
34 Dark side
37 Gushes over
40 Plastic users
42 Leak preventers
45 "Achtung Baby" producer
47 Holland export
50 Every
52 Titania's spouse
54 Ruckus (hyph.)
56 Found a roost
57 Part of N.B.
58 Blissful spot
60 11th-grade exam
62 "__ to Be Wild"
63 Primo (hyph.)
64 Sault __ Marie
66 AAA suggestion
67 "Nightmare" street

	2				5			7
6				7	1			3
9	7			8			1	
			7			5	2	
		2		6		1		
	3	8			9			
	6			3			9	2
8			6	4				5
2			9				8	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

			7		4		6	
		8	1	5			3	7
	6			3		4	1	
	7							
	3		6		5		4	
							9	
	1	3		8			7	
4	2			6	3	1		
	9		2		7			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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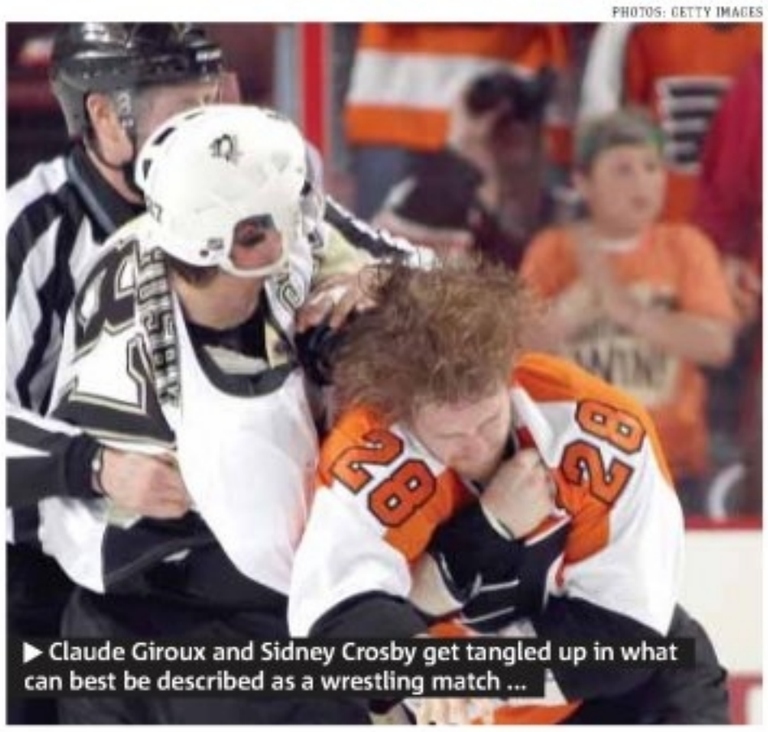
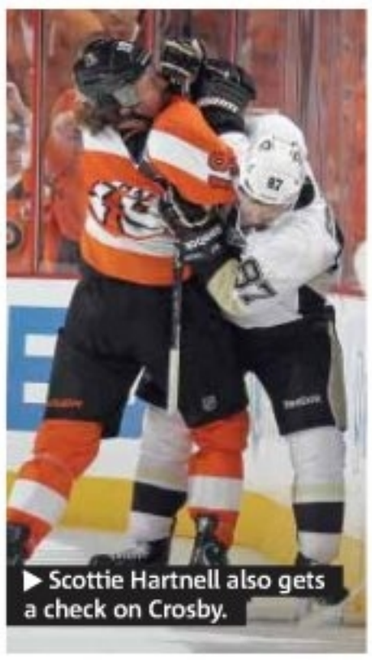
BEATDOWN ON BROAD STREET

Flyers top Penguins 8-4 in rough one ◗ Orange and Black lead playoff series, 3-0 ◗ Game 3 on Wednesday

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



▶ Claude Giroux and Sidney Crosby get tangled up in what can best be described as a wrestling match ...



▶ Scottie Hartnell also gets a check on Crosby.

Wayne Simmonds stood in shorts and a T-shirt in the hallway, ready to congratulate his teammates with a fist bump. His arms were folded and he didn't look happy, even though his team just went up 3-0 in the series and won the game, 8-4.

An underdressed Zac Rinaldo joined him. Scott Hartnell, too. There were almost as many Flyers returning to the locker room as there were players who had been ejected. Such is Flyers-Penguins hockey.

"I don't know if it was as physical as it was dirty," Danny Briere said. "You saw the hatred, you saw the frustration. I think it was more of that. I saw a couple of cheap shots when guys weren't looking, but I think it's mostly the rivalry that had a lot to do with the team today."

By the time it was over, there were 158 penalty minutes. Kimmo Timonen recorded his first career fight against Kris Letang. Sidney Crosby dropped the gloves with Claude Giroux.

"It was more of a wrestling match," Giroux said, "but that's part of hockey."

There were a lot of amendments to the definition of "hockey" in Game 3, apparently. James Neal drilled a defenseless Sean Couturier late in the third period, which sparked a melee that resulted in 15 penalties assessed to 10 different players.

"If you can hit guys without the puck nowadays, that's dangerous," Timonen said. "I love the rough game, but when guys don't have the puck and you hit them blindsided, I don't understand that. The league should get on that."

The Flyers feel the Penguins initiated that kind of play and while that may be old-time Broad Street Bully hockey, that's not how the Flyers want to win. Predictably, the Penguins don't see it the same way.

"You know what, there's more than one team getting in those things, so you can make a story if you want about us getting frustrated," Crosby said. "We're playing playoff hockey. They're doing the same things we are."

DAVE ISAAC
sports@metro.us

What went right ...

1 Wilted Flower — With all the talk about Ilya Bryzgalov and his daily, roller coaster ride in goal, the story of this series has been the dreadful play of the Penguins' Marc-Andre Fleury. The man they call Flower, who led the Pens to the Cup in 2009, must have bad sunburn from all the red lights the Flyers have turned on, 17 in less than three games. The Flyers clearly are in his head, which led to Dan Bylsma yanking him after two periods and six goals.

2 Special sauce — The Flyers' special teams have been dominant at both ends of the ice, especially yesterday when they poured in four power-play goals — twice restoring a two-goal lead after the Pens had cut it to one — to go with Max Talbot's shorthanded tally. That makes Philadelphia a blistering 6-for-10 with the man advantage in the series to Pittsburgh's 3-for-13.

3 Deuces wild — No fewer than three Flyers — Danny Briere, Matt Read and Max Talbot — scored a pair of goals, which might be a consolation to the Pens after both Sean Couturier and Claude Giroux starred in Friday's Game 2 performance of the Hat Trick Games. Meanwhile, Pittsburgh got two apiece from Jordan Staal and James Neal. But the most telling statistic for them is zero. That's how many goals winner Evgeni Malkin has so far.

JON MARKS

158
Total penalty minutes doled out in Game 3, including 72 in the first period alone. There were also eight players — three Flyers — ejected.

101
Playoff points for Danny Briere in his NHL career, after he scored two goals and added an assist in yesterday's win.

ON TV WEDNESDAY
Penguins at Flyers, Game 4, 7:30 p.m. (CSN)

3

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Phils call on replacements

Nix, Wigginton rally team with RBIs Hamels in cruise control, earns first win Phils head out West

Call them the replacements.

The journeyman players that Ruben Amaro Jr. brought in to fill out the Phillies' roster had done little to inspire much confidence over the first few weeks of the season. Names like Laynce Nix, Ty Wigginton, Juan Pierre even had skipper Charlie Manuel scratching his head.

Those names finally proved their worth in yesterday's 8-2 win over the Mets.

Pierre went 3-for-4. Wigginton tied a career-high with four RBIs, including a bases-clearing double. And Nix stroked his first hit as a Phillie when he blasted an RBI double off the shadows in left.

Nix and Wigginton combined to drive in five of the Phillies' eight runs. That should give Manuel a little more confidence when he's filling out his lineup card.

"They are new to our team, so it takes them awhile to get the feeling they belong and I know they very much want to impress you," Manuel said. "It takes them a while to get used to our team and feeling good about themselves."

Nix had been 0-for-7 in red pinstripes before lacing a seventh-inning double to give the Phils a 3-2 lead. It was also his first start since April 7.

"It was a good time to get my first hit," Nix said. "You know, it was a little tough not playing for a week to get my timing. I knew that was going to happen first couple at-bats. I'm really happy to do that at the end." MIKE GREGER

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▶ Hamels gave up two runs on six hits in seven innings to earn his first win.

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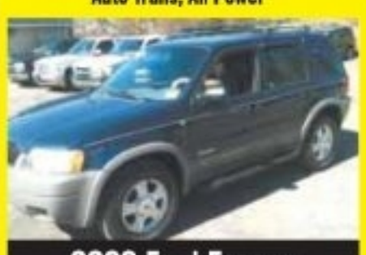

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L1074 Amber Hurtman • 01548 Maher Lami

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C0124 Kenneth Mariner • C0167 Regina Goulet • J0670 Maureen Walker
J0672 Kristen Wisniewski • K0891 Lou Porecca
K0941 Sean McSorley

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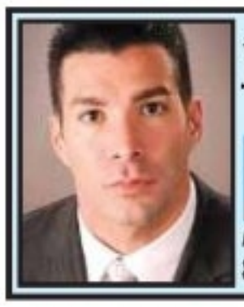

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motoring

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Driving through Manhattan in an oversized Ford F-150 SuperCrew pickup, my major concern is not decapitating any hapless cyclists.

There might be any number of reasons why a pickup and the Big Apple might seem at odds — Wall Street versus Main Street and all that. My issue is with the gargantuan side mirrors. Boulder-sized chunks of glass and heavy plastic, they hang out extremely far on either side.

Fine, perhaps, when you're towing a big boat and need to see the universe behind you. Not so helpful when your main concern is avoiding the bobbing heads of delivery men.

Once I clear the city without having claimed any urban scalps, I find myself marveling at this asphalt-bound tugboat. The size, the price, the technology. This $52,000 Ford is not the truck of my youth.

I've been in a pickup state of mind recently. My first car was also a truck, and I've always loved pickups for their versatility, their toughness, and their 4X4 ability to go through rocks and mud.

Once I get past the size, I begin to appreciate the elegance of Ford's EcoBoost motor. Yes, elegance. Rather than the brutish 5.0-liter V-8 of the standard F-150, the SuperCrew packs a twin-turbo, direct-injected V-6.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Beware, bicyclists, of the rearview mirrors.

Rated at 365 horsepower and 420 pound-feet of torque, it's a slick piece of technology displacing only 3.5 liters, this engine has far more in common with a hot sports car.

It also means that power comes on quickly and seamlessly. The F-150 is peppy and powerful, depending on how you want to drive it. The handling is good. My wife Miranda drove and loved it. The size didn't bother her one whit.

The price set me back on my heels. The base price of this 2011 model was around $46,000, with more than $5,000 of options and a destination charge of almost $1,000. All in it carried a $52,075 price tag. BLOOMBERG

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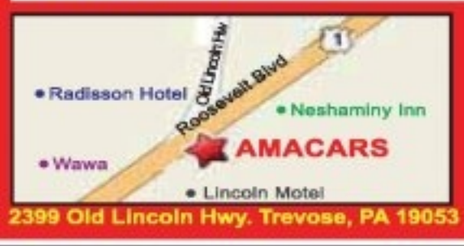

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